

C A M P A I G N   F O R

# ACCOUNTABILITY

February 13, 2018

**BY EMAIL:** [jstires@age.ohio.gov](mailto:jstires@age.ohio.gov)

Jennifer Stires  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Ohio Department of Aging  
246 N. High St., 1<sup>st</sup> Fl.  
Columbus, OH 43215-2406

**Re: Ohio Open Records Request**

Dear Ms. Stires:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43, *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks copies of all grant agreements entered into or agreed upon by the Ohio Department of Aging and Coleman Professional Services, also known as Coleman Pregnancy Center, and formerly known as the Pregnancy Center of Kent.

This request is for records from January 1, 2013 to present.

By way of background, in 2013, the Ohio Legislature created the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program to distribute state funds to nonprofit organizations that promote childbirth.<sup>1</sup> According to Coleman Professional Services’ 2014 application, the organization had received \$49,200 from the Ohio Department of Aging.<sup>2</sup> CfA received Coleman Professional Services’ application to the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in response to an Ohio Open Records Request.

Where possible, please produce records electronically.<sup>3</sup> CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, calendars, schedules, meeting and conference call invitations, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

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<sup>1</sup> Rita Price, Abortion; Pregnancy Centers Aim to Serve as Alternative, *The Columbus Dispatch*, July 15, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Coleman Professional Services, Application for Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program Grant, Attachment A, July 17, 2014, Pages 4-5, attached as Exhibit A.

<sup>3</sup> Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7).

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1), please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure.<sup>4</sup> In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.<sup>5</sup>

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.<sup>6</sup>

Please promptly produce the requested records, or pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(1), please provide the requested records within a reasonable period of time or furnish a written acknowledgment of receipt of our request and the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied, as well as when we can reasonably expect to receive the responsive documents. If you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Ohio Department of Aging to process it.

If possible, please email the records to me at [dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org](mailto:dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org). If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dan Stevens  
Executive Director

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<sup>4</sup> Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(3).

<sup>5</sup> Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(3).

<sup>6</sup> Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43 (B)(1).

# **EXHIBIT A**

this fiscal year to date. Also include grants approved for ODJFS or institutions of higher education:

Total number of grants: 12

For each state grant, list the state agency and provide the following information:

State Agency/Educational Institution: Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Grant Dollar Amount: \$36,725

State Agency/Educational Institution: Ohio Development Services Administration  
Grant Dollar Amount: \$146,400

State Agency/Educational Institution: Ohio Development Services Administration  
Grant Dollar Amount: \$72,249

Attach additional pages if needed

Additional page attached

#### 11. Grantee Ethics Certification

As a grantee receiving grants from the State of Ohio, I certify on behalf of  
Coleman Professional Services \_\_\_\_\_ (name of vendor or grantee):

(1) I have reviewed and understand Ohio ethics and conflict of interests' laws, as found in Chapter 102. and Sections 2921.42 and 2921.43 of the Ohio Revised Code.

(2) I acknowledge that failure to comply with this certification is, by itself, grounds for termination of this contract or grant with the State of Ohio.

  
Signature of authorized agent

7-17-2014

Date

12. I have read the ODJFS Model Grant attached to the RFGA, and if awarded a grant, I will not X (or) I will \_\_\_\_\_ request changes to the standard language, and have marked the requested changes and returned the model document with this proposal for consideration by ODJFS. (If so, ODJFS will review those requested changes if you are the selected grantee. All requested changes to model contract language are subject to ODJFS approval.)

13. I Nelson Burns, CEO, (grantee representative in Item # 7) hereby affirm that this proposal accurately represents the capabilities and qualifications of Coleman Professional Services (grantee's name), and I hereby affirm that the cost(s) bid to ODJFS for the performance of services and/or provision of goods covered in this application in response to this ODJFS RFGA is a firm fixed price, inclusive of all incidental as well as primary costs. (Failure to provide the proper affirming signature on this item may result in the disqualification of your proposal\bid.)

14. **Location of Business Declaration:** Vendors responding to any ODJFS RFP/RLB/RFGA (etc.) must certify that no public funds shall be spent on services provided/Performed offshore by completing, signing, and returning the "Location of Business Form," which is the final section of this attachment. **FAILURE TO PROPERLY COMPLETE, SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM, INCLUDING THE "LOCATION OF BUSINESS FORM," WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE VENDOR FROM CONSIDERATION FOR AWARD OF AN ODJFS CONTRACT.**

State Grants received by **Coleman Professional Services** since July 1, 2012 (continued)

State agency: Ohio Development Services Agency

Grant Dollar amount: \$25,000

State agency: Ohio Development Services Agency (Historic Tax Credits)

Grant Dollar amount: \$515,000

State agency: Ohio Development Services Agency

Grant Dollar amount: \$240,000

State agency: Ohio Department of Aging

Grant Dollar amount: \$24,600

State agency: Ohio Development Services Agency

Grant Dollar amount: \$119,635

State agency: Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services

Grant Dollar amount: \$500,000

State agency: Ohio Historic Preservation Agency (via City of Ravenna)

Grant Dollar amount: \$12,500

State agency: Ohio Department of Aging

Grant Dollar amount: \$24,600